

Washington State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE)

Proposed Revisions June 2020

-Notice CRP-897-

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Washington
Department of
**FISH and
WILDLIFE**

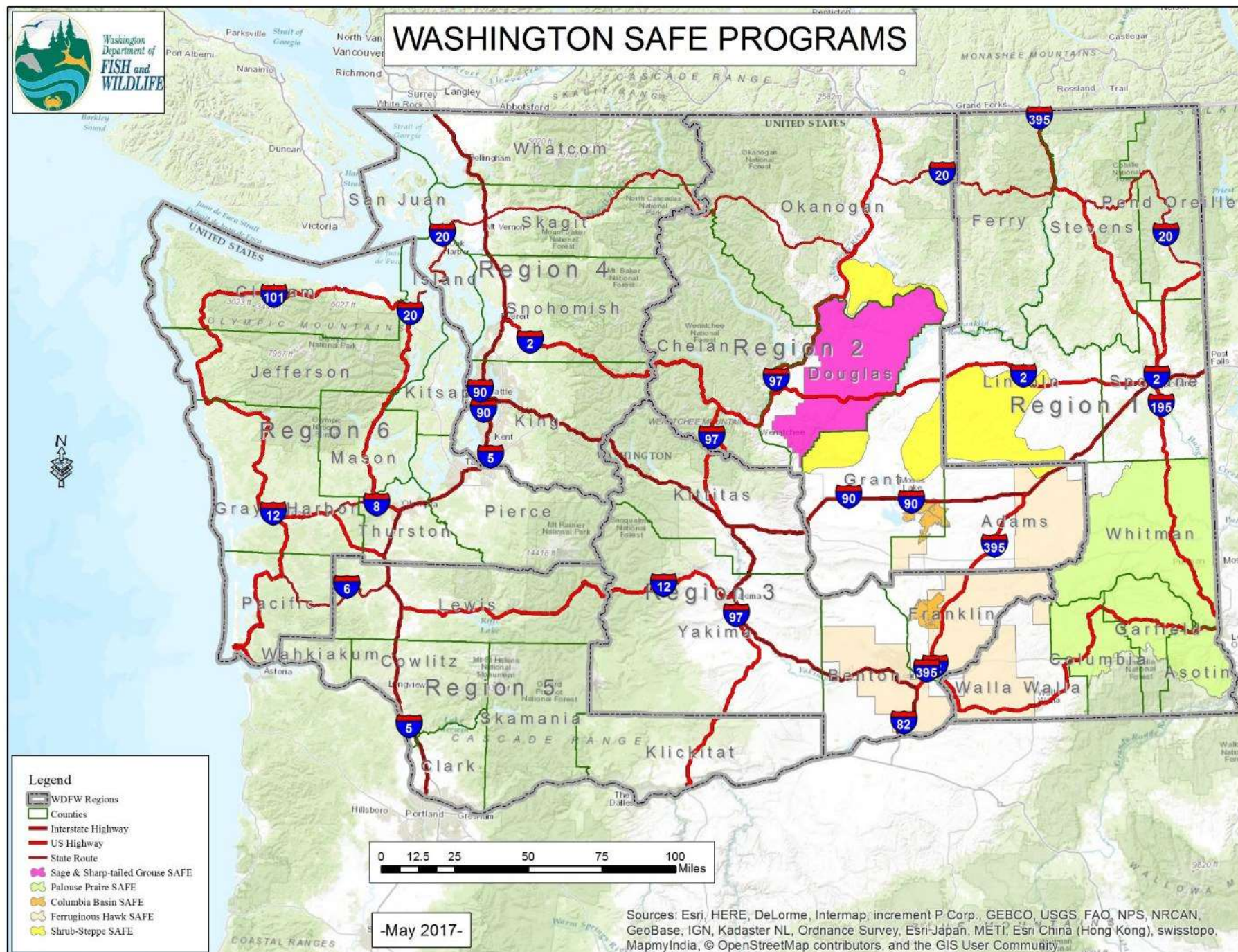


SAFE Overview

- Focused on conserving/restoring habitat for wildlife
- Seed mixes feature mostly native species with high species diversity (e.g. 3 grasses, 3 forbs, and 1 shrub/tree)
- Clean seedbed critical to success
- Typically employ a two-stage seeding
 - One year fallow (tillage or chemical)
 - Plant grasses in fall
 - Interseed forbs following fall to allow time to manage broadleaf weeds in grass seeding
 - Often multiple management treatments needed to control weeds while native plants establish




WASHINGTON SAFE PROGRAMS



Sources: Esri, HERE, DeLorme, Intermap, increment P Corp., GEBCO, USGS, FAO, NPS, NRCAN, GeoBase, IGN, Kadaster NL, Ordnance Survey, Esri-Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), swisstopo, MapmyIndia, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community

Washington SAFE & CP33 Enrollment Prior to CRP Signup 54

SAFE Program	Acres Allocated (Prior Farm Bill, N/A now)	Acres Enrolled	% Acres Enrolled
Sage & Sharp-tailed Grouse	78,000	72,939	94
Ferruginous Hawk	20,000	14,647	73
Shrub-Steppe	25,422	19,530	77
Palouse Prairie	5,728	4,868	85
Columbia Basin	150	0	0
SAFE Total	129,300	111,984	87
CP33 (Upland Bird Habitat Borders)	5,000	1,553	31



Overview of Changes Proposed

- **Combine Sage and Sharp-tailed Grouse and Shrubsteppe SAFEs into one program** since they focus on the same species and habitats
 - Additional focal species
 - Additional requirements to support pygmy rabbit conservation
 - Revised to meet requirements in CRP-897
- **Eliminate the Columbia Basin SAFE** due to low enrollment and availability of CP33
- **Maintain the Ferruginous Hawk and Palouse Prairie SAFEs** with no changes except to meet requirements of CRP-897
- All CRP practices from original SAFE proposals remain with no changes, and no new CRP practices.
- Maintain prohibition of haying and grazing on SAFE practices

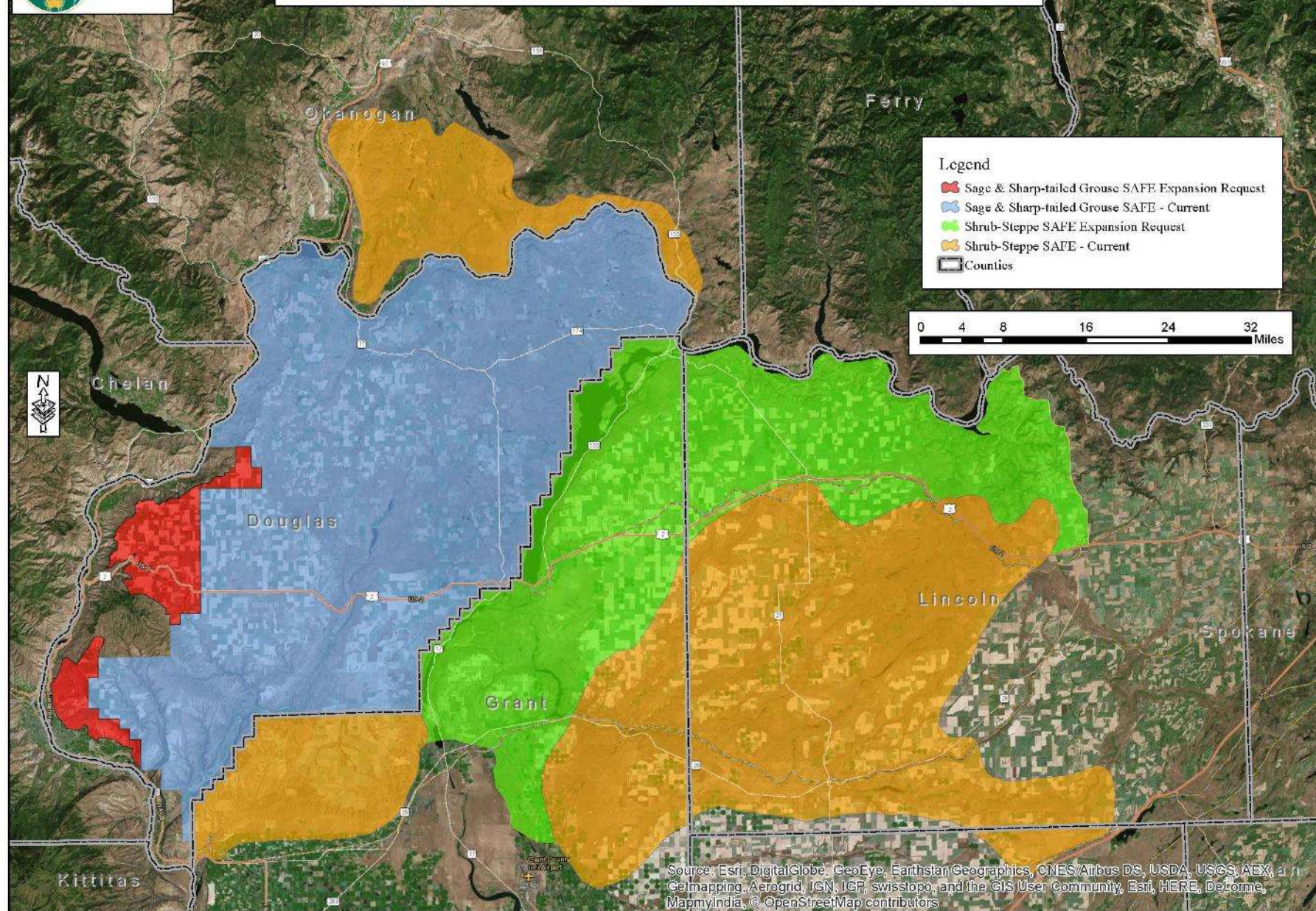


Shrubsteppe SAFE Changes Proposed

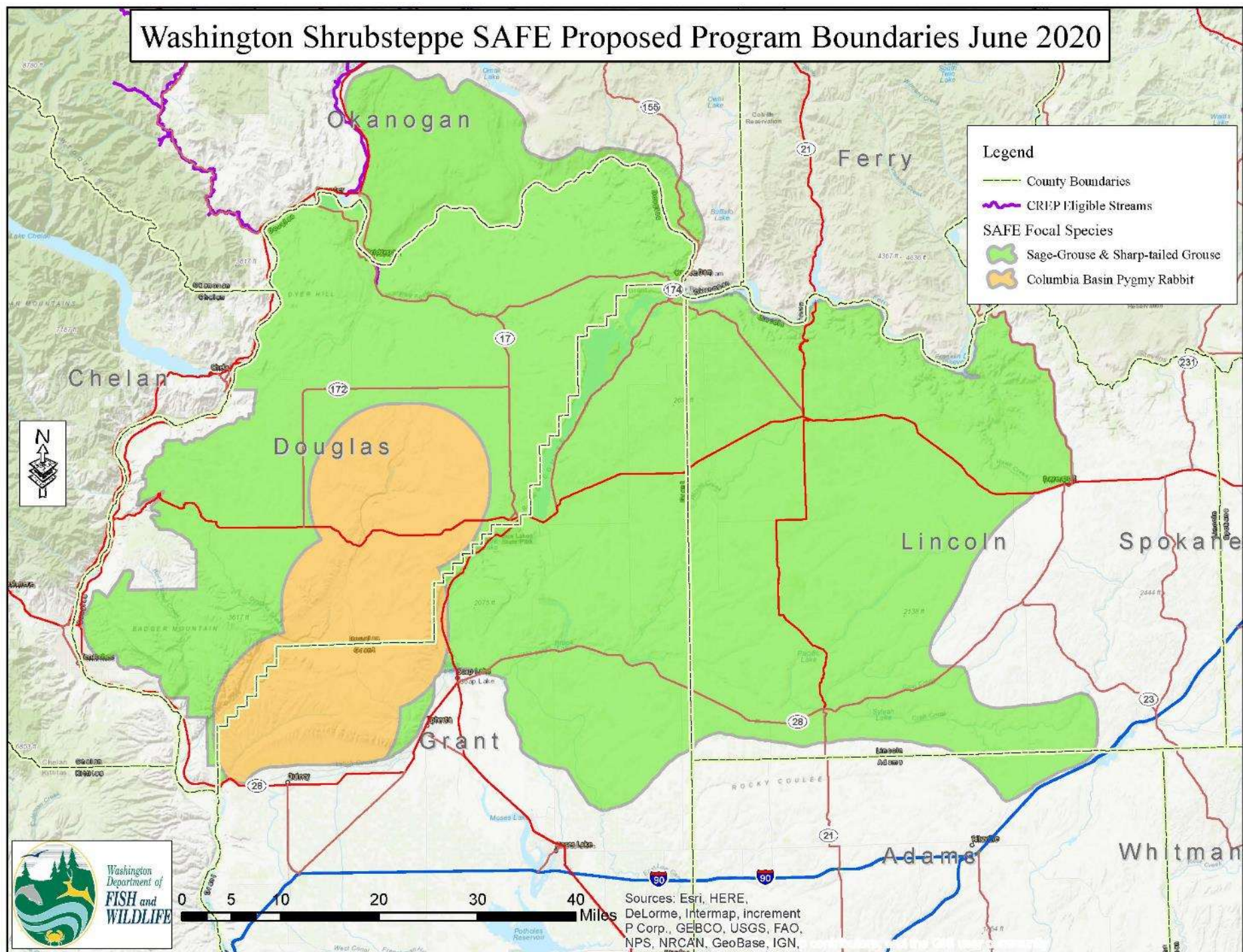
- Boundary adjustments to:
 - Increase habitat connectivity between Douglas and Lincoln Counties;
 - Promote connectivity between a large Sage Grouse Initiative (SGI) permanent agricultural land easement and the prior Sage and Sharp-tailed Grouse SAFE area;
 - Connect SAFE in Douglas and Okanogan Counties
- Add Columbia Basin pygmy rabbit, pollinators, and mule deer as focal species



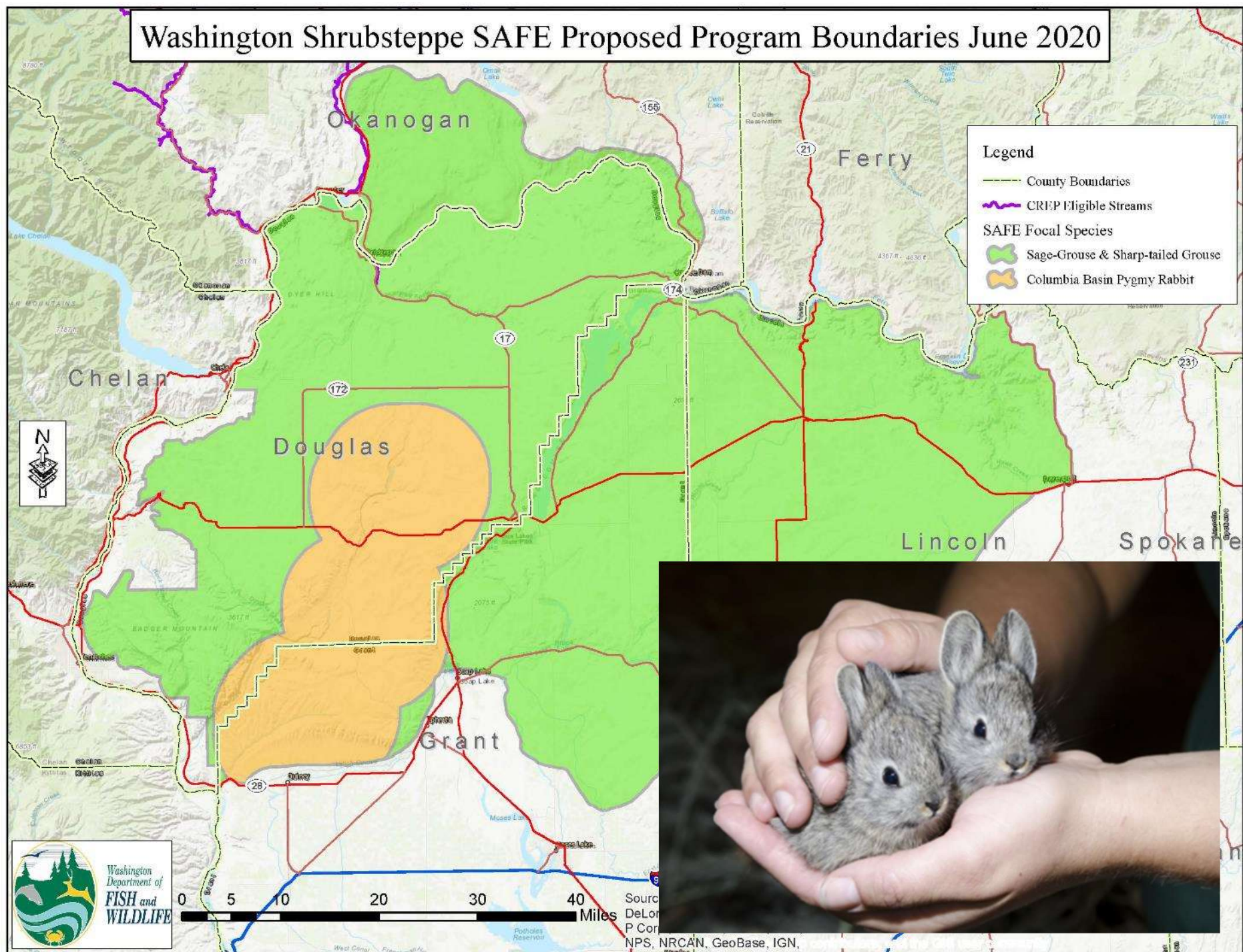
WASHINGTON SAFE EXPANSION REQUESTS SAGE & SHARP-TAILED GROUSE AND SHRUB-STEPPE PROGRAMS -MAY 2017-



Washington Shrubsteppe SAFE Proposed Program Boundaries June 2020



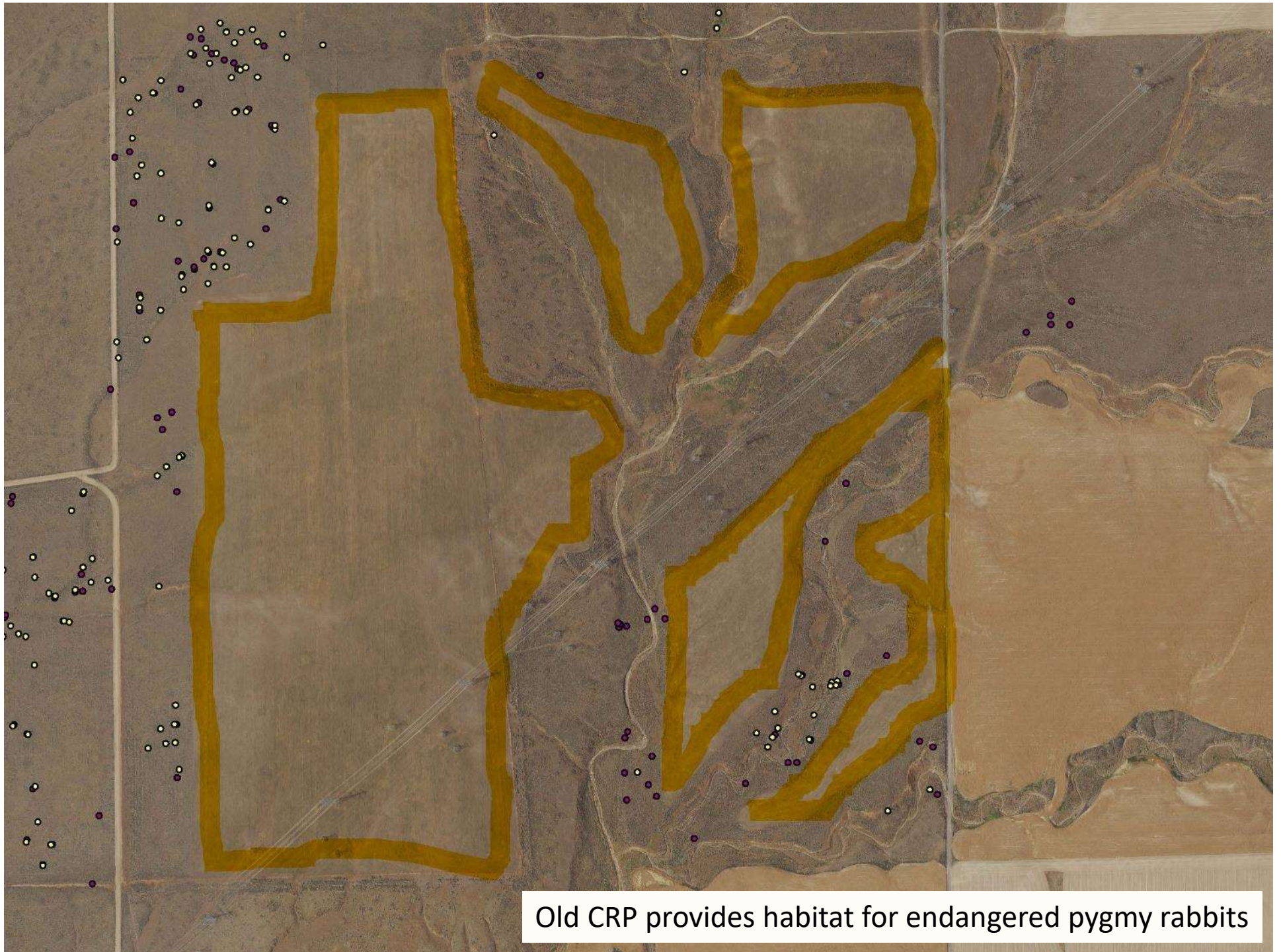
Washington Shrubsteppe SAFE Proposed Program Boundaries June 2020



Shrubsteppe SAFE Changes Proposed

- Within Columbia Basin Pygmy Rabbit Focus Area
 - Add requirement to plant sagebrush (by seed, not plugs) unless a WDFW biologist determines sagebrush will likely seed naturally from adjacent established sagebrush stands; and
 - Increase the allowed leave area for sagebrush on re-enrolled CRP from 25 percent to up to 100 percent for SAFE offers if recommended by a WDFW biologist.





Old CRP provides habitat for endangered pygmy rabbits



Ferruginous Hawk SAFE

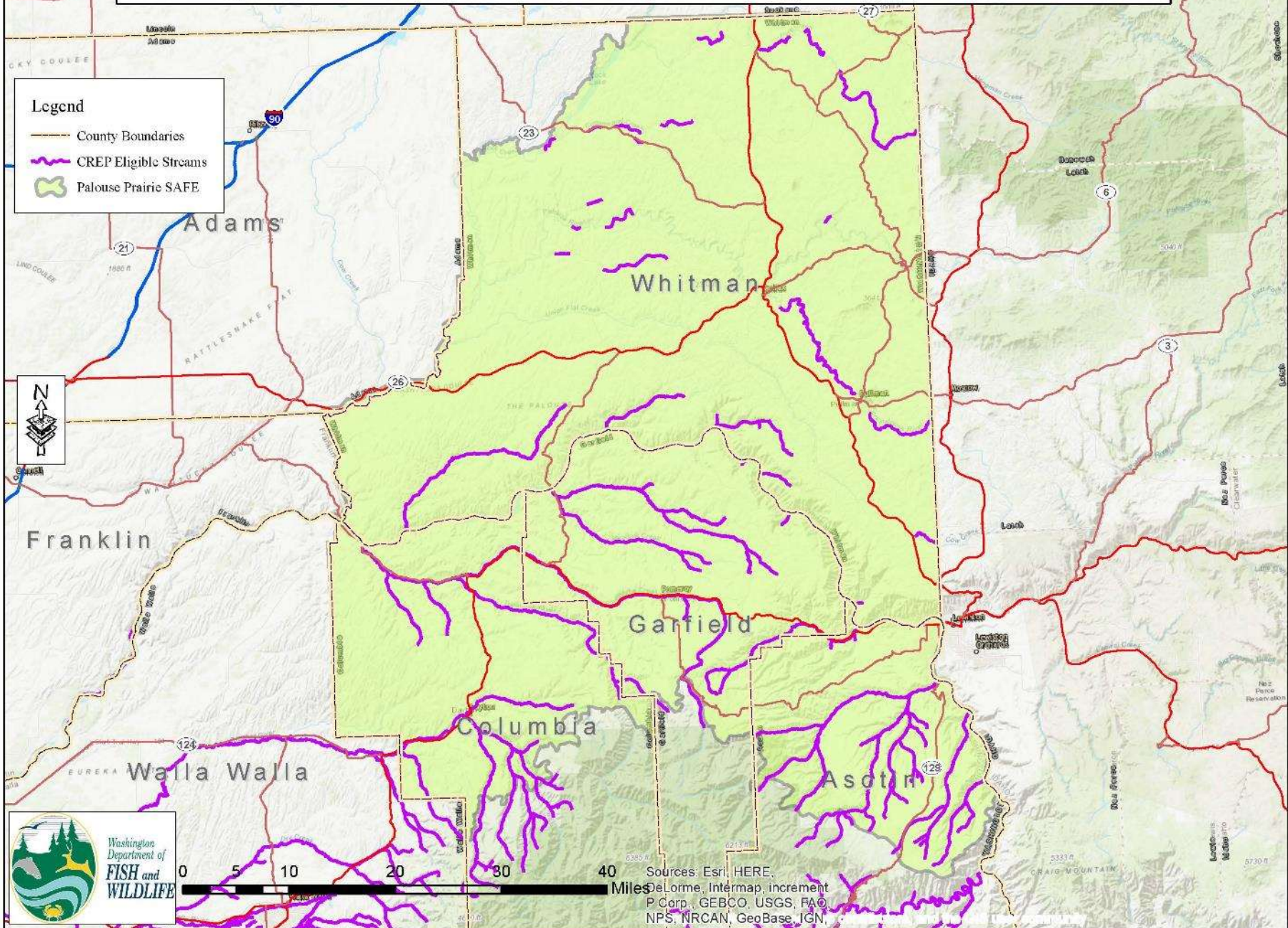
- Elements from original proposal remain the same but reformatted to meet Notice CRP-897 requirements
- Focuses on shrubsteppe habitat restoration and riparian restoration
- Benefits following species:
 - Ferruginous Hawk
 - Jackrabbits (prey for hawks)
 - Ground squirrels (prey for hawks)
 - Burrowing owl (range overlaps with ferruginous hawk and also feeds on jack rabbits and ground squirrels)



Palouse Prairie SAFE

- Elements from original proposal remain the same but reformatted to meet Notice CRP-897 requirements
- Focuses on restoration of Palouse Prairie habitat (<1% remains), includes filter strip, riparian buffer, wetland, and wildlife food plot practices as well
- Benefits following species:
 - Pollinators
 - Giant Palouse earthworm
 - Ring-necked pheasant (upland game bird)
 - Deer (white-tailed and mule)

Washington Palouse Prairie SAFE Proposed Program Boundaries June 2020

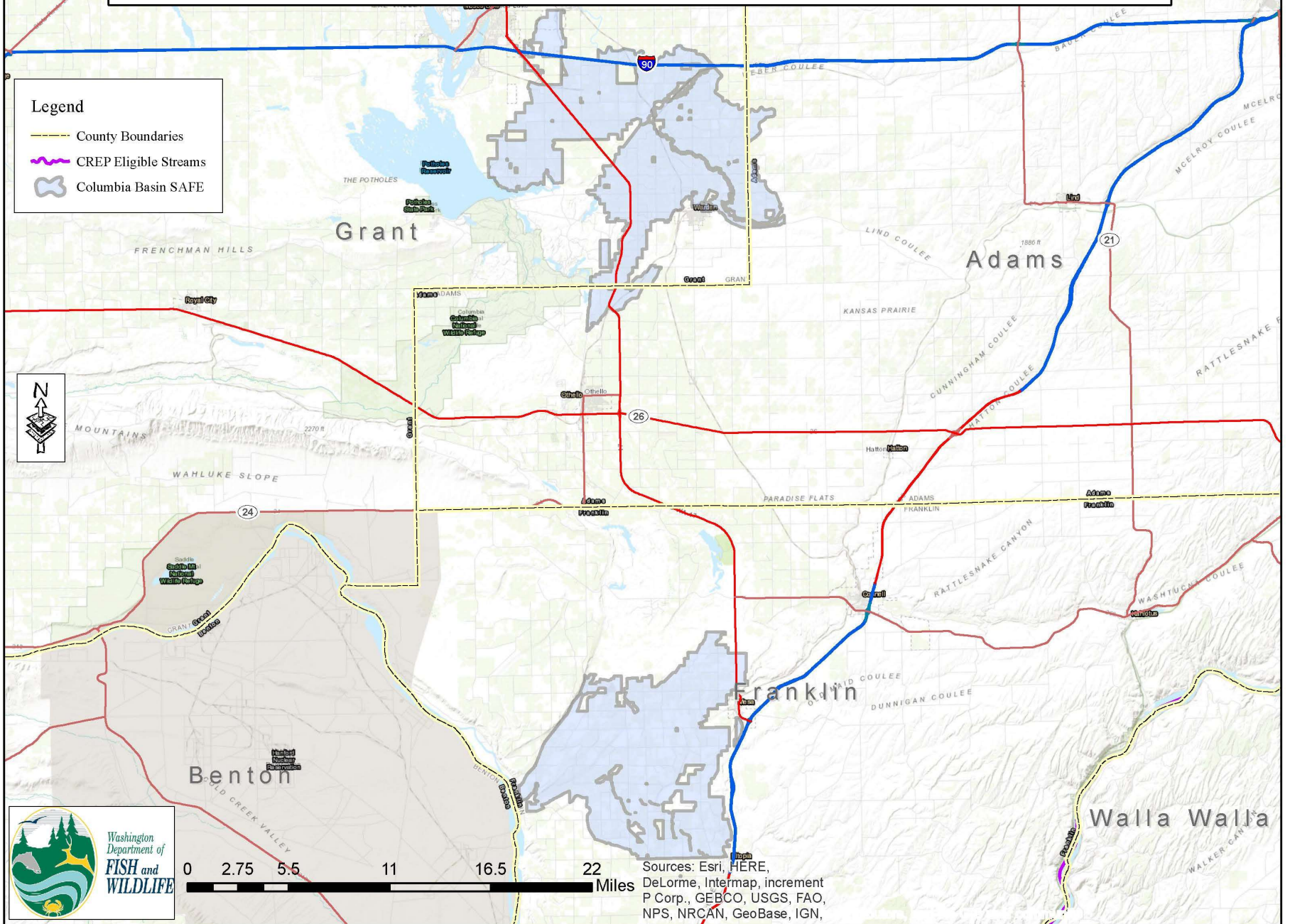




Columbia Basin SAFE

- Very few allotted acres (150), lower enrollment (17)
- Requesting discontinuation of this program due to lack of interest and availability of CP33 practice.

Washington Columbia Basin SAFE Proposed Program Boundaries June 2020





Questions?

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